

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are currently pending in the application, of which claim 1 is in independent form. Claims 1-4 have been amended, and no claims are currently canceled or added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0097906A1 of Ha (hereinafter "Ha") in view of the Japanese Publication Laid-Open No. 10-201083 of Kajima/Nissin Electric Co., Ltd. (cited as "Toshiro" in the Office Action, hereinafter cited as "Kajima").

The Kajima reference discloses a method for resupplying electric power to part of a distribution line 4 from a substation 1, in which a plurality of section switches 13 are connected in series downstream from a breaker 3, after the breaker is tripped (i.e., power supply is shut off) due to ground fault and/or an accident. (See Kajima paragraphs [0005]-[0010]; Figs 19-22.)

Specifically, when an accident (i.e., failure) occurs in a section between section switches, the breaker 3 is opened and power supply to the distribution line is shut off. Then, the breaker 3 is reclosed and the section switches 13 are sequentially closed in the order from the switch nearest the breaker to the switch farthest away. When the section switches located downstream of the failed section where the accident occurred are closed, the breaker is opened again, so that the power supply is shut off and the section switches 13 located downstream of the failed section are locked open.

After that, when the breaker is reclosed, the locked section switches are separated (i.e., isolated) from the distribution line, and sections located upstream of the locked section switches can be recovered safely.

In contrast, the presently claimed invention is configured such that a plurality of refrigeration system components (e.g., compressors) are connected in parallel to a power supply through the breaker. During the sequential startup of target refrigeration system components, if a target refrigeration system component experiences failure in its electric system, the failed refrigeration system component is excluded and other target refrigeration system components are

re-started as target refrigeration system components. That is, the startup process described above is repeated, with the failed refrigeration system component removed from the startup sequence. Therefore, the presently claimed invention can detect multiple failed components (i.e., whose electric system failed) and starts up all of the refrigeration system components other than the failed components to perform the normal operation.

The presently claimed invention is distinct from the cited references since the claimed invention detects all failed components and starts up all of the refrigeration system components other than the failed components. In other words, the Kajima system makes a transition to a recovery operation (recovery current operation) upon finding only the failed section that is nearest to the breaker. Consequently, the Kajima system can detect only a single section having a failure. Furthermore, the system of Kajima can recover only a portion of distribution line that is between the failed section and the breaker, since a plurality of the section switches are connected to one another in series.

The Ha reference discloses that a plurality of indoor units 104a to 104h and a single outdoor unit 102 are connected to each other. Electric power is supplied to each of the indoor units and the outdoor unit through individual circuit breakers 112 and 114a-114h. (See Ha, Fig. 1.) In such a configuration, even when a failure occurs in the electric systems of any indoor units, electric power is supplied to other indoor units. Therefore, the problem solved in the present invention cannot be addressed by the Ha system.

Since the combination of Ha and Kajima does not disclose every feature of the present claims, as amended, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims.

Conclusion

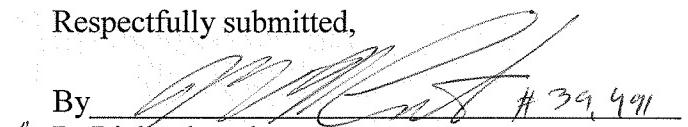
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James C. Larsen, Reg. No. 58,565, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 5, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 
D. Richard Anderson
Registration No.: 40,439
James C. Larsen
Registration No.: 58,565
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorneys for Applicant